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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015

Monumental day Designs for a memorial to workers killed building the canal are unveiled Page 2

Green scum

Toxic pools of algae remain limited to Lake Erie's western basin Page 9





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Beautiful day at Lock 8 Gateway Park



FRANKI RIFMAN/POSTMERIA NETWORK

Cezarine Elliot, back, and Lauren Hitchcock play on the water feature at Lock 8 Gateway Park







\$255,000







young, this one is a must see!! \$489,000

UPFRONT

CANAL BUILDERS: Unveiling of memorial plans witnessed by family members

A monumental day for the canal Donations to OneFoundation

Postmedia Network

The winter of 1929 was as rare as it was idvilic for Roy Nottingham.

For several months, his family was together on the farm. His older brother Donald, a Great War veteran who was often away from home to work, was back in the fold. "I remember we spent a lot

of time playing with one of those crystal radios they used to have," Nottingham said. Donald was home to heal. Both of his less had been broken in an accident on the Welland Canal construction site. He had been working on farms in Alberta, but when the harvest was over he took a

canal The work was dangerous, Routinely, workers were killed, but the job paid well, So when he could walk, Donald was determined leave

the farm two hours north of Niagara to return to work on the canal. *My father sternly warned

him not to go back." Nottingham said. *But in 1929, sometimes you had to travel to get a good

Not long after Donald left for Niagara, Nottingham's parents received a phone call. It was about 6 p.m. Nottingham doesn't remember much about that day, but he can clearly recall the feeling of dread and shock that gripped his family.

Having survived the trenches of Europe, Donald Nottingham died in a workplace accident building the

'It's ironic. He was the first (child) of the family, and I'm the last," said Nottingham, now 100 years old and living near Simcoe

His brother Donald was one of the 137 men who died building the Welland Canal. Now more than 80 years after the federal government promised a memorial in their honour plans to erect a trib. ute are finally underway.

'It's a nice surprise after 86 years," said Nottingham,



This is an artist's rendering of what the monument to the workers killed in the construction of the Welland Canal will look like when it's completed

who was one of several family members of the fallen workers on hand last Thursday at a news conference near the St Catharines Museum at Lock 3, where the memorial will be

The \$450,000 monument designed by architect Dereck Revington will feature a large. black steel monolith with a quote from then-federal minister of railways and canals Robert James Manion.

Peace has its heroes as well as war, and in a construction job of this magnitude, with its daily risk and hazard, the sacrifice of human life seems to he unavoidable." Manion said at the opening of the canal in

"In due course we shall see that the names of these workmen are suitably preserved and made an enduring portion of the great structure that rises not only as a monument to their effort and their lives, but to the efforts of the thousands of working men and engineering helpers whose unremitting toil, often in the face of difficulty and discouragement, made possible the triumph of the present hour."

At the other end of the memorial site, just north of the museum on St. Lawrence Seaway land, will be two smaller black monoliths



Names of all the workers killed will be inscribed on the monument. This portion is called The

engraved with the names of the workers who died building the canal from 1918 to 1932, along with those killed dredging the canal from 1932

The effort to make Manion's unfulfilled promise a reality began in 2013, when local historian and former curator of the St. Catharines Museum Arden Phair pulled together as much existing data on the workers as he could. By then, the number of

workers known to have died had grown from 115 to 124. The Standard ran a series of articles on the men who died and published an online petition urging all levels of government to build the longpromised memorial.

Following those stories, a task force of key stakeholders

including then-St. Catharines mayor Brian McMullan (and later current Mayor Walter Sendzik), St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra, Welland MP Malcolm Allen, representatives from the regional government and local unions was

formed to get the memorial off the ground. At Thursday's press conference. Sendzik said without Phair's efforts and the stories published in the paper, the memorial project would not have reached this point.

"What we had here is a member of the federal government, a member of the opposition party and a member of the media all working together toward the same goal," said Dykstra.

"It just shows you what can he accomplished when peo-

ple come together." The projected cost is \$450,000. Heritage Canada has contributed \$150,000, and during Thursday's announce-

ment Algoma Central Corp. pledged \$25,000 to the The effort to raise the remaining money is being led by former Algoma CEO Greg

Wright The memorial is expected to be built in 2017, after the St. Lawrence Seaway completes construction on nearby land adjacent to the canal.

For more information on the memorial or to donate. go online to steatharines ca/ en/governin/fallen-workersmemorial.asn

> grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @grantrants

ENDOSCOPIES

Donations to to be matched

KARENA WALTER

Donors to Niagara Health System's OneFoundation can make their money go further until the end of the Neena Kanwar and fam-

ily, of KMH Cardiology and Diagnostic Centres, will match donations up to \$125,000 that support endoscopy at the NHS. It's the first gift matching

opportunity for the foundation, which raises money to buy equipment needed by the hospitals.

More than 15,000 NHS patients use endoscopy services to screen and diag nose ailments from chronic indigestion to cancer.

Endoscopy services are offered at Welland, Greater Niagara General and St.

Catharines hospitals. Derek McNally, executive vice-president of clinical services, said the equipment has a shelf life and has been earmarked for

undating at all three sites. "We want to have the best ossible, latest technology that's got the least impact on our patients, for it to he as smooth an experience as we can possibly make it for the patients in the shortest time with the best outcome," he said

Endoscopy includes gastroscopy, which looks into the stomach: bronchoscopy, which checks the lungs; and colonoscopy, which examines the bow-

Donations can be made online at onefoundationfornhs.com or by phoning 905-323-FUND (3863).



'Cassey doesn't end here'

ALISON LANGLEY Postmedia Network

Cassey Cichocki turned to drugs to numb her pain after enduring a string of personal tragedies. Her seven-week-old

baby died in 2003, and her brother passed away five monthe later In 2004, she broke her

back after falling from the Clarence St. bridge in Port Colborne. She was four months pregnant at the time and lost the baby as a result of the accident. Her battered body was

discovered in January 2006 on Whirlpool Road in Niagara Falls. She was 22 when she was murdered. You say this could never

happen to your daughter, but it does," said her stepmother Wilma Brown. While Cichocki's story is tragic, her friends and family are now working to make sure her memory lives on

through Cassey's Evergreen Bail Recovery Home. "Cassey doesn't end here," Brown said.

"Cassey's story is going to make a difference in this world. She's not here to be able to use this resource. but so many other girls

CASSEY'S **EVERGREEN** BAIL RECOVERY HOME

Residential home where women can live awaiting

Includes counselling, job training skills and treatment For more information. TerrysEvergreen@yahoo.ca

The residence on Queenston St. in St. Catharines is set to open Sept. 1 and will offer a safe environment for women who are awaiting trial. Support will include counselling, job training skills and treatment

Founder Deb Nanson. a passionate advocate for women working in the sex trade industry in Niagara. said the home will accommodate at-risk women who have nowhere to go and no resources available to them once they're released on

She said bail conditions are often so restrictive. the system essentially sets offenders up to fail.

not to use You can't tell an alcoholic not to drink," she

"For myself, you could have told me I had to fly to China three times a

week and I would have signed that paper to get out because my addiction had already taken over, knowing I was getting out."

lem is that female prisoners are housed outside Niagara, at the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton

return to St. Catharines late at night and are unable to get to Southridge Shelter or the YWCA because the temptation to use is simply too strong.

bus in their prison greens,

reoffended that same day and found themselves back behind bars. Women who breach bail

remaining in jail until their "Our fails are so over-

Compounding the prob-

Nanson said they often

"When they step off that

they're in a part of town where there's drug dealers, there's tricks, and they bounce around from crack house to crack house." Nanson said "Sometimes women have

conditions run the risk of

trial date



Friends and family are now working to make sure Cassey Cichocki's memory lives on through Cassey's Evergreen Bail Recovery Home

crowded." Nanson said. There are so many people sitting in fail that shouldn't be there. "The justice system is

broken, the social services system is broken, and we have a lot of Band-Aid solutions. Well, Band-Aids fall off

Nanson hopes Cassey's Evergreen Bail Recovery Home will be a permanent solution to help women trying to deal with homelessness, substance abuse or mental health issues.

The project currently receives no government funding and Nanson is relying on the generosity of volunteers to help make her dream a reality. Cherry Lane Farms in

Vineland has given start-up funding and Brian Peters provided the two-acre property. The rooms are being furnished and stocked with toiletries and other essentials by members of St Andrew's United Church in Niagara Falls. "If not for them and their

open-hearted generosity, we wouldn't be able to do this right now," Nanson Peters, who owns the

Continental Inn in Niagara Falls which offers affordable accommodations to people who run the risk of living on the streets, was eager to support the project.

Once they're out of jail, they're considered undesirables and nobody wants them and they can't afford a roof over their heads. I see this every day, and nothing is being done.

Nanson also plans to create programming to deal specifically with women trapped in the sex trade industry.

After Cichocki's death. Nanson and Brown met with other young women who worked the streets of Niagara.

"I met these girls and my eves were opened." Brown recalled, "They all had their own stories to tell." Nanson agreed.

"Take a good look around your family and look for the Cassey in your family. There is one. You're just not looking." alison.langley@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @nfallslangley

RETAIL: Doors open at Welland's TSC outlet

Crowd flocks to TSC store opening

CREC FURMINGER Postmedia Network Shoppers looking for a

glimpse at Welland's newest big retail store flocked to TSC sturday morning. "They've got a couple good door-crashers," said Thorold's

Brian Boccioletti as he walked back to his car with a large bag of lawn fertilizer. 'It's something new and exciting," he said of the arrival of the retailer that bills itself as "The Incredible Country

Hardware Store After some computer glitches, which did persist. doors opened to the first customers just before 9:30 a.m. well beyond what was expected to have been a regu-

lar 7 a.m. Saturday start. "We didn't want to open until we were 100% confident," said district manager Jason Packham, upon his sixth opening of a TSC store — the 52nd in the chain.

That meant putting off a soft opening that was expected to have happened Friday. Still, there were a lot of smil-

ing customers who wandered spacious, brightly lit aisles to see what TSC (Tractor Supply Co.) had in store for them. "We sell a lot of unique

products that you wouldn't find in a Canadian Tire or Home Hardware store," Packhom soid

"We're all about being a true country store."

Merchandise includes farm supplies, outdoors clothing such as hunting and fishing fatigues and related sporting gear, pet and animal products. tools and other hardware. "We've had a lot of peo-

ple coming in just wanting to check it out," said Packham. Those who did were given a 10% manager's special counon redeemable until the end

"This is a great location, this fills a void," said the store's inventory manager, Bob Phillips, as he greeted customers also with fliers promoting

store-opening specials. Phillips said the store should reach out to the Lake Erie shoreline community

that otherwise would have had to travel to St. Catharines. Grimsby or Simcoe to shop at "It also complements the

other stores," he said, noting inventory may vary at each location. What's not available instore can be purchased at tsc-

stores.com - it has an online benefits club — then delivered to Welland. The 2,415-square-metre store will employ 20 to 25 peo-

ple, including TSC employees from other locations plus new hires

The building at 777 Niagara St. has sat mostly idle since Canadian Tire moved next to Walmart on Primeway Drive

in fall 2008. Niagara Regional Police had occasionally used it, with other police services as far south as Pennsylvania, for police dog training. It has also been the site of high school skills competitions.

"It's great that we can repurpose the old store," Packham "We're definitely excited to

"Spirits are great with our staff and our customers."

Linda and Wayne Uhlman stopped in while in Welland to visit Linda's sister. They don't have a TSC store in Bramp-

"My sister is thrilled about this" Linda said "I think it will be a great

SPECS 777 Niagara St., opposite

Seaway Mall Up to 25 employees 2 415 square metres Country store-type inventory, including farm Outdoors clothing and

related sports supplies Pet and animal needs Tools and other hardware Phone 905-788-9368

Online visit tscstores. addition to Welland."

Packham said the official grand opening will take place the last weekend of this

> greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib

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welland tribune@sunmedia.ca John Tobon, Advertising Director Peter Conradi, Managing Editor



Post-election options and the 'doomsday' option

hey're off! The 11-week federal elec-tion campaign, the longest since the horse-and-buggy era of 1872, has begun. As political parties introduce their economic plans, and get leaders in front of crowds and cameras, other things are going on behind-the-scenes. In particular, strategists are mapping out possible post-election

ecenarios Yes, it's early. A lot can happen, and will happen, during the campaign. Voters are fickle, and polls will change.

As things stand, most polls are showing a three-way political horse race. Nanos Research last week had the Tories at 31.5%. NDP at 30.1% and Liberals at 29.3%. For the Tories, this could be disastrous.

They have no political allies in Parliament. Meanwhile, the opposition parties are ready to throw Prime Minister Stephen Harper out

There are some positive post-election

A Tory majority government would be optimal, and give the PM four more years in power. Alas, the chances of this bappening for either the Tories, or opposition parties, is slim to none. Unless things dramatically change, it won't happen.

A strong Tory minority government isn't desirable, but it's salvageable. The opposition parties wouldn't be able to pull the trigger so quickly, as the strategy could easily backfire and cost them electorally. While it would take some effort and co-operation, political stability could be accomplished. What about a narrow-to-moderately sized Tory minority government? It would be

similar to the 2006 election, when the party suon 124 of 308 seats That, my friends, is what I like to call the

"doomsday scenario." Harper successfully led two governments in a minority situation. The Liberals and NDP are aware of this, and aren't going to

give him a third chance at glory. The Tories would be politically dead in the water, and a Liberal-NDP coalition government is a more likely result.

That being said, there's a losing scenario where the Tories could actually be in the driver's seat. If the NDP win a minority government (of any sort), and the Tories finish

second, this could work to their strategic advantage. You see, the Liberals may dislike the Tories more than the NDP. Yet, any sort of co-operation with the NDP - with the

Liberals serving as a minority partner destroys the party's raison d'être. Giving the NDP legitimacy is exactly what the Liberals don't want to do. It could potentially lead to the two-party scenario that Harper (and others) long envisioned. Plus, there are right-leaning business

Liberals who don't want to work with the NDP, period. If this scenario came to pass, the Liberals they know vs. the devil that could kill them

off Put yourself in their shoes. What would you do? Intriguingly, former Liberal leader

Michael Ignatieff alluded to this possibility during the 2011 election. If Harper "wins the most seats," he said, and "forms a government but does not secure the confidence of the House ... then it goes to the Governor

If the Governor General "wants to call on other parties - myself for example - to try to form a government, then we try to form a government.

True. Yet, he was treated with scorn by Harper for suggesting an "illegitimate" method to create a "reckless Ignatieff-led coalition" with the second-place party. This strategy could ironically end up

saving Tory hides. It's not the best scenario, but it's better than the "doomsday scenario."



James B. Eads is pictured in Toronto in September 1961 in this photo by Skip Gillham.

Shipwrecks — James B. Fads

For Postmedia Network

hile the steamer James B. Eads had not yet been through the Welland Canal when it was in a collision 100 years ago last June, the ship would eventually become a frequent trader

through the local waterway On June 7, 1915, James B. Eads of Pittsburgh Steamship Co. collided with the package freight carrier Chicago on the St. Clair River. The former was sent to the shipyard for repairs and, while it was there, the company decided to install a new pilothouse and crew quarters.

James B. Eads dated from 1894 and had worked as a package freight carrier and ore carrier but later came to Canada for the grain trade. It was one of the earliest travellers through the fourth Welland Canal. The ship headed downbound for the first time on June 15, 1931, well before the waterway was officially

James B. Eads served Upper Lakes Shipping for many years before being slowly scrapped at Port Weller Dry Docks

from 1963 through 1967.

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Niagara job outlook continues to brighten

Postmedia Network

Niagara's job front continues to recover from its denths

in the 2009 recession Statistics Canada reported last Friday the unemployment rate for St. Catharines-Niagara was 6.2.%, up from 6% the month before. However, more people were actually working last month - 203 800 com-

pared to 201,100 in June. The actual unemployment rate notched up as the labour market attracted more jobseekers, said Statistics Canada

analyst Vincent Ferrao. "The labour force participation in your area went up and there were more people looking for work," Ferrao explained. It continues a steady pos-

itive trend for jobs in the In July 2014, the unemployment rate was 7.5%, with

That's also an improvement from July 2013's 8.3% figure and unemployment raging

from 10% to 11% during the worst of the 2009 downturn The economy and jobs emerged as a hot-button issue in last Thursday's federal lead-

ership debate. Overall, Canada has seen slumping economic growth - led by woes in the oil patch

sector - and may by headed for a mild recession. As for sectors in Niagara showing jobs strength over 12 months, Ferrao points to con-

struction, retail, wholesale trade and support services as among the improving sectors. The unemployment figures are seasonally adjusted. The Niagara census metropolitan area does not include Seasonally unadjusted, the

local unemployment rate is

actually better at 6%, up from

Grimsby and West Lincoln.

Statistics Canada calculates a percentage figure using a seasonally-adjusted time series, to smooth over the effects of seasonal and calendar influences on job levels. That allows for more mean-

ineful comparisons from one period to the next. Niagara, for example, experiences an employment spike

in agriculture and tourism over the summer months The just-released labour

market observer from the Niagara Workforce Planning Board reveals other healthy employment trends.

The number of full-time workers has jumped up 4.1% over the year and the youth unemployment rate has dropped 1.2% over 12 months. That's better than the provincial results

"We're very pleased with this jobs increase," said John Storm, chair of the planning

board, "When you look across the province and the whole country, we should feel good about this.

"We think that we are on the cusp of something somewhat significant economically, he said, adding the region is becoming more popular with

City of St. Catharines economic development manager Brian York said a recent business retention and expansion survey indicates "the local economy is tracking consistently upward in most measurable areas.

He said there are "modest employment growth projections from our industrial sector businesses" Other local companies actively recruiting include

Rankin, Kriso Metal Industries Mortimers Fine Foods Keyframe Digital, Sitel and Ting Mobile, said York, "My sense is it's almost

File photo of a worker at GM's Powertrain manufacturin plant in St. Catharines.

across the board, (but) nothing earth-shattering," said Bon Seguin, Niagara's economic development director. "There are a large number of firms of varying sizes that are getting the orders and expanding their market Canada's overall labour

market barely budged in July, managing only meagre growth in hiring. That's enough to reverse a similarsized decline the previous month and keep the unemployment rate unchanged for the sixth straight month. Both private and public posi-

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tions declined marginally and the jobless rate continued at 6.8% - where it has been since February, Self-employment jumped by 40,500 last month Employment in Ontario was unchanged in July. Compared with 12 months carlier, employment in the province was up by 67,000 people

(+1%) and the unemployment rate fell 1.1 percentage points to 6.4%, the lowest rate since September 2008 — with files from Postmedia Natuork

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Postmedia Network A new manufacturing operation in Port Weller for wind-tur-

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The facility is the result of an Enercon Canada Inc. and Rankin

Construction Inc. partnership to

bine parts could generate up to make pre-cast concrete parts for Niagara Region Wind Corp.'s wind turbine towers. Meanwhile, Enercon has also acquired a majority stake in the 230-megawatt NRWC farms located in West Lincoln, Wainfleet and Haldi-

Enercon Canada commercial manager Hassan Shahriar said the production facility at 340 Lakeshore Rd. E. is being leased and retrofitted by Enercon to produce the pre-cast tower parts for the E-101 wind turbines

"These towers are a combination of concrete and steel segments, and the concrete segments are pre-cast in a factory to ensure quality," he said.

It's like Lego blocks that are assembled ... to build up the concrete tower." Shahriar said production is expected to run for six to eight months "and at

peak production we expect to have a head count of up to 200 workers from Rankin, who is the subcontractor." *The facility is currently in ramp-up stage," he said.

The primary focus of the facility is to produce concrete segments for the Niagara wind farms, but given this new capability (for) Enercon in Ontario it has opened the opportunity to supply future wind farms. We will have a supply chain that is ready and available: As for cost, Shahriar said "at this point

we would prefer not to disclose the actual investment amount. But it has been a substantial investment."

Enercon is also partnering with Boralex Inc. in putting together the wind

City of St. Catharines economic develonment manager Brian York said production has started in the 9.000-squaremetre fabrication shop located near the

dry docks. The project involves constructing 77 of the E-101 wind energy converters.
"It's fantastic news," York said. "And it's

been in the works for a while "We've been working on this one for about the last 12 months."

York said the facility's long-term prospects are to 'be determined, based on market demand." St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik

said his best information is the positions will be "largely new jobs to the Rankin complement." *The opportunity for people to have a

paycheque is very important. Whether these are contract jobs that last three to four years, or are based on market conditions ... it's the private sector giving people the opportunity to collect a "This is another example of the private

sector coming into the community and us demonstrating as a city we're investment-ready." A spokesperson from Rankin was not available for this story

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Five women wanted for comedy

Are you good on stage? Have a great sense of comedic timine? Are you a woman aged 20

to 50? Then Community Living Port Colborne can use you for its upcoming production of **Bridesmaids** Five women are needed for

the fundraising show. Auditions will be held Sunday. Aug. 16, at 3 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m. at Community Living, 100 McRae Ave. For more information, call 905-834-1918. The show is slated to run in

PetSmart rewards Port

ALL WOOD KITCHENS

October

Colborne Feline Initiative Port Colhorne Feline Initiative has received a \$10,000 PetSmart Charities of Canada grant to fund its Big Fix targeted

spay and neuter project. The funds will enable the group to provide no-cost spay/neuter for cats whose owners reside in the East Village neighbourhood of Port Colborne.

Targeted, zero-fee spay/ neuter initiatives like our Big Fix project are critical to humanely reducing cat overpopulation

which results in many issues directly impacting a community, including too many cats and kittens in shelters and the endless cycle of reproducing on the streets," says the charity's president, Kristi Mallinson Vogel

"This grant will directly benefit the quality of life for the cats, their owners and the neighbourhood in which they live."

Port Colborne Feline Initiative is an all-volunteer registered charity that also provides Operation CatSnips", a trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR)

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program for free-roaming community cats; KitKat, a foster and socialization program for homeless street kittens; and SNAP a spay/neuter assistance program for cats whose owners are experiencing financial challenges. More

than 1,200 cats and kittens

have benefitted from these

programs. PetSmart Charities of

Canada is a non-profit animal welfare organization that saves the lives of homeless pets More than 14,000 does and cats find homes each year through its adoption program in all PetSmart stores and sponsored adoption events

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LOCALNEWS

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

\$13M investment for GM plant

MARYANNE FIRTH stmedia Network

There are no brake lights in sight at the Glendale Ave. General Motors plant.

The company announced last Friday a \$13-million investment into the St. Catharines powertrain facility that will enable the production of more variants of the 3.6-litre V6 engine currently being built at the plant

Word came from Stephen Carlisle, GM Canada president and managing director, who shared the news during the facility's annual open house and show and shine car show that drew hundreds of people to the

excellence"

we operate."

The event was also used as a platform to unveil for the first time in Canada the company's 2016 Chevrolet Camaro

"We're building on a great track record of excellence here in St. Catharines," Carlisle said, while crediting plant administration and staff for "the great achievements you continue to rack up here in quality, productivity and environmental

The investment, Carlisle said, is "another great example of GM living up to its commitments to our customers, to Canada and to the communities in which

nal of our optimism for the future, including here in St. Catharines'

The powertrain facility, which employs about 2,000 people, is one of North America's largest engine and transmission plants. It produces a range of V6 and V8 engines, as well as transmissions for a wide range of GM products.

While the investment will not mean any additional jobs at the plant, it does provide a renewed sense of security, plant manager Carolyne Watts said. There's always uncertainty in this industry and to see the investment indicates that there is a future

this product," she said of the V6 engines. The production line was scheduled to end in just a few years, but has now been extended.

'It's good news. It's really good news," she said. Engineering work for the manufacturing upgrades are underway and installation is expected to begin "in the next few months," Watts said.

Future production volumes will be determined through market demand and ongoing discussions with labour union Unifor maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

witter: ØmfirthTribune



General Motors held it's annual Open House and Car Show at its Glendale Ave. location on Friday. The 2016 Camaro was unveiled as well as an announcement of money for the V6 line

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No sign of toxic algae blooms

GREG FURMINGER Postmedia Network

Toxic algae conditions are at near-record levels at the west end of Lake Erie, but Niagarans need not worry. Annual algal blooms are

Annual algal blooms are problematic in Ohio and Michigan and for Ontario communities bordering the lake, and also Lake St. Clair, but they do not impact Erie's

eastern hasin

"Typically, this bloom stays on the west side," said Rick Stumpf, lead forecaster of algal blooms for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. In Niagara, beachspoers

need only contend with the "mucky stuff" type of algae growth — seaweed, if you will — unlike the "pond seum" at the west end, Stumpf said in a phone interview earlier this month

The Lake Erie algal bloom is caused primarily by nutrient runoff — phosphorous — from agricultural sources including fertilizers and manure. The bloom's growth is fuelled by sun, high temperatures and calm water.

According to NASA, cyanobacteria produce toxins that can kill widdlife and domestic animals and cause illness in humans through exposure to contaminated freshwater and the consumption of contaminated drinking water, fish or shollfels.

Cyanobacteria blooms are characterized by their dense biomass, toxins, taste and

odout.

At ulletin from NOAA on the harmful algal bloom issued Aug. 6 by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and Great Lakes Envisonmental Research Laboratory warned the Lake Eriebloom had intensified in the western part of the lake's western basin, where people are

warned to keep themselves

and pets out of the water.

To the islands to the northeast offshore of Point Pelee, southeast of Windsor, toxin levels are especially high in

No blooms, the bulletin said, are evident in Lake Erie's central basin — Stumpf said they seldom occur and dissipate quickly — and eastern

basin.

NOAA estimates the cyanobacteria concentration at 8.7 on a 10-point severity scale, a figure that could climb to 9.5. A 10 was reached in 2011, the worst year on record for toxic

algae on Lake Erie.
Stumpf said this year's
growth is particularly high
because of the runoff associated with the spring's heavy
rains, when an "enormous
slae" of phosphorous entered

the water system.

The problem peaks in September. Bacteria die off when the water turns cooler under windy conditions.

"Cyanobacteria are happier when it's calmer and warm," he said. Lake Erie had a preva-

lent problem with toxic algal blooms in the 1960s and into the 1970s, but it disappeared following the introduction of the Clean Water Act in the

U.S, and similar Canadian legislation that targeted sewage source points, Stumpf said. Through changing farm

practices, he said, algal blooms re-emerged in 2003 and have persisted, and with no support in being stemmed by a Grest Lakes nuisance. "Zebra mussels don't eat cyanobacteria, but do eat the

good algae," Stumpf noted.

He said the jury is still out on whether the west basin algal bloom influences the growth of the kind of algae that washes up on Niagara beaches.

Of the 16 Lake Erie beaches

monitored by Niagara Region for water quality, based on recent testing only Wainfleet's Belleview Beach was posted online Thursday as unsafe for

swimming,

A negative review for swimmers could be caused by algae

According to NASA's website, the annual cost of freshwater degraded by harmful algal blooms is estimated at \$64 million in the U.S.

SOURCE: NA.
This July 28 image shows of algal blooms visible as swirls of green in western Lake Erle, at Pelee Island.

it has partnered in a \$3.6-mil-

lion effort with NOAA, the

U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency and U.S. Geologi-

cal Survey to transform its sat-

ellite data into information

that will help protect the pub-

In August 2014, Toledo, Dhio banned use of drinking water supplied to more than 400,000 residents after it was contaminated by the bloom. NASA recently announced hese blooms, 'Holly Bam-hese blooms,' Holly Bam-hese blooms,

is critical to understanding, managing, and forecasting these blooms," Holly Bamford, acting NOAA assistant secretary for conservation and management, said on NASA's website.

greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib



TRANSPORTATION

Airport work expected to benefit region

ALL AN RENNER

Postmedia Network Tony Quirk can't wait for the day when he can board a jet in Niagaraon-the-Lake and fly off on vaca-

And that day could be coming "Purely selfishly, I'm looking forward to when I can take a charter down south from St. Catharines. That would be great, as far as I'm concerned," said Quirk, who chairs Niagara Region's transportation

strategy steering committee. While the committee considers expanding Niagara District Airport on Niagara Stone Rd. so it can accommodate international flights as part of the Region's transportation master plan, the smaller Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport on River Rd. in Pelham likely won't be left behind. That airport could be enhanced

too, allowing it to "pick up the other

end of the aviation world," said Richard Rybiak.

The Pelham town councillor and chair of the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport Commission said he hopes the two airports become "a really healthy single system of tremendous benefit to the

In the months to come, Niagara's transportation steering committee will consider shifting funding responsibility for the two airports to Niagara Region, from the seven municipalities that currently pay

the hills That's part of a transportation master plan being developed. Niagara Region was asked in June to take over funding for the Niagara District Airport - a plan the Niagara District Airport Commission hopes will lead to an \$8-million

expansion, allowing it to accommodate international flights. That airport is currently sup-

ported with about \$300,000 in annual funding from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-

A few weeks ago, Welland coun cil also approved a motion to ask the Region to take over funding for the Rungeling Airport. It's supported currently with about \$90,000 vearlyfrom Welland, Port Colhorne, Pelham and Wainfleet.

Quirk said the requests to shift funding responsibility arrived at regional council for consideration at about the same time, allowing the transportation committee to discuss both in tandem and as part

of the transportation master plan. He said a federal government plan to allow smaller airports to use Canadian Air Transport Security Authority screening services, as well as the Niagara District Airport Commission's business plan supporting the expansion, makes the idea of enhancing the NOTI, facility

rently offered at the NOTL airport. In that case, he said, "it becomes a winwin

A single governance model for the

"more enticing, for sure,"

two airports could be considered as well. Rybiak said he would support it. "I think there's tremendous potenrial. We'd have two locations doing com-

plementary things, and it gives us more opportunity than we'd have with one or the other" he said. "I think that if the Region uploads both, the governance structure will be whatever the Region defines it to be." Rybiak said he hopes a new single air-

port commission would include local representation. He would also "insist that Dorothy Rungeling remain in the name" of the

southern airport. The airport was recently renamed in honour of the 103-year-old Pelham aviation pioneer

Welland Mayor Frank Campion said he'd support the idea of a single governance for both airports. *They could work in tandem, because

there would be synergies between the two airports. What happens in NOTL could be supplemented or augmented by different activities here," he said.

The Niagara District Airport kicks in about \$25 million annually in economic benefit to the region, and the Rungeling Airport brings about \$8 million to the local

But Rubiak said the economic benefit is

likely substantially more. If it happens, Quirk said, the Rungeling airport could be expanded as well to "That's conservative," he said accommodate some of the services cur-And enhancing air travel services at the

airports would also boost the economic benefit they provide to the region. It makes sense from the perspective of fair play, too, he said. Campion said if only one airport is taken

on the Region, it wouldn't be fair to taxpayers footing the bill for the other airport. "All municipalities in the south feel the same way," he said. "If we continue to pay

for our airport here, then we'll be paying for two airports." But Quirk said he hopes to "get past the parochialism and get into a real discussion

about what makes the best sense for the Region as a whole: He said it will take some time before any

decisions are reached. "I think there's some expectation that this is all going to happen overnight, and I don't think that's fair either. We have to seriously consider how we're going to do it

and what makes the best sense," he said. "I think the announcement on the security is a huge step forward and certainly makes the impetus for something to happen sooner rather than later, but we don't need to be rushed into anything

Quirk said it will be a few more months before committee discussions begin. The committee's next meeting isn't until Sept. 28, and the issue isn't likely to come up until the meeting after that.

"I'm looking forward to some pretty robust discussions about it," he said.

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Back-to-school needs found at food banks

Postmodia Naturak

Back to school for kids means hack to food banks for many moms

and dads Never mind advertised specials on classrooms needs, for many people living in poverty this is the month to start getting pens, pencils, paper and other school supplies from the same agencies to which

they turn to put food on the table. "It's a time we see parents needing more of our services," said Hope Centre executive director Mark Carl.

"If you're living in poverty, there's no extra money there for school supplies."

For the first time, the Welland agency this season has partnered with Canadian Tire Financial Serv- usually now - indoor shoes and ices' lumpstart Charities to provide a Snacks N' Sneakers program. A similar program has been provided through Community Care of St. Catharines-Thorold.

In addition to the corporate support. Hope Centre is requesting monetary aid from the community. A \$20 donation made through www.thehopecentre.net or at 570

King St. will provide a child with one week's supply of healthy snacks or a new pair of sneakers; \$50 covers snacks, sneakers and a new backnack

Not only are educational supply costs more the responsibility of parents, demands for how they clothe their children has changed since they went to school. "Kids need two pairs of shoes

outdoor shoes," Carl said. Children registered through Hope Centre will get shoes Aug. 24. Carl said his agency helps to

meet the needs of about 400 children each month. The need for related food bank aid climbs in late August and early

September.
People use the money they normally have for food for supplies for back to school," Carl said of those

who can cover some back-to-school expenses on their own Food banks across south Niagara

share a common need for school lunch items that include real fruit juice boxes, fruit cups, pudding cups, cheese and crackers, peanutfree granola bars and other similar foodstuffs.

"Stuff that's good and healthy for the kids' lunches," said Open Arms Mission

executive director Jerry Vanderklok. While parents may be focused on different food options this month, demand for

food assistance remains constant. When kids are at home during the summer - and possibly away from school breakfast and lunch programs — the need for food may be greater.

Donations, however, tend to drop when people are away on vacation and school food drives are at a standstill. Others donors are locked in to thinking demand

for food aid is tied to holidays such as Easter and Thanksgiving. "You're just as hungry in July as you are at Christmas," Vanderklok said. "I've always

said: poverty knows no season." The Fifth St. mission is again preparing students with school backpacks and an assortment of supplies, possibly enough to cater to the needs of 250 to 300 of the children it serves.

The mission has run its backpack program for elementary-aged students for the past 12 years, with the support of Giant Tiger, which will run its toonie fundraising campaign Aug. 21 to Sept. 6. Vanderklok said it typically raises \$3,000 for back-to-

school needs. Staples is now also pitching in to the mission's effort, and assisting with a simi-

lar Port Cares backpack program. Open Arms started its back-to-school assistance program last Tuesday. To get a backpack, people need to drop in at the mission Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. to 11:45

a.m. until the last day of August, Photo ID. proof of income and proof of address is recurined

Pelham Cares last year handed out about 35 backpacks with supplies, and expects need to be the same this year.

Client services co-ordinator Lori Grande, who Wednesday updated the donation needs list at PelhamCares.org, said her agency requires more "packable" lunch

"We really do appreciate more of that this time of year," she said. The same would hold true for Port

The Port Colborne agency is also requesting donations of backpacks, lunch

bags and school supplies. Shelby Hemingway, Port Cares' human resources and development assistant, expects there will be an escalated need as there is each year - for between 75 and

100 student backnacks. Anyone in need can come in to the 61 Nickel St. centre and pick and chose needed school items, be they binders or paper, pens or pencils. They can do so Aug 26 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Aug. 27

"Any member of the community can come in, even if they don't use our meal program," Hemingway said. In addition to back-to-school needs, the

agencies report a need for hygiene products, baby food and diapers, soap and body wash and similar non-food donations. Said Vanderklok: "If you can't afford a loaf of bread, you can't afford body wash."



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Bosley lightens up his grunge country on new CD

Postmedia Network it wasn't quite folk. It wasn't quite punk. But when someone told Philip

Bosley his music was like "country Cobain," he knew what his sound was: Grunge Country The burley Port Colborne singer/songwriter certainly looks the part, with the

long mane and beard which could pass for either Steve Earle or Slaver, But it's the tunes which fit the bill, heartland rock with an edge. As he describes it, "imagine Buck Owens heartache with Big Sugar guitars

Talking over a speaker phone while on the road for work. Bosley says he loves the energy of early '90s rock but his sentiments leaned closer to southern roots

So I just kind of merged this angry side of '90s angst and the hurt and honesty of southern singer/songwriters," he says, "Sometimes, they sync pretty well: sometimes, you have to write one of each and just deal with it."

He indulged his dark side on his last album, 2012's aptly-titled Funeral Blues. The songs were so grim, Bosley said he had to tell jokes to lighten the mood at concerts. It's an album he said "will send your therapist to therapy."

Things have lightened up considera-

bly for his latest, Big Rumours in a Small Putting the album together, Bosley

says he went through about five years of songs, about 100 in total, to find the 11 that fit his brighter frame of mind.

"My last album was such a wrist-slitting, suicidal, dark piece of work that (I felt) I've got to try and write something happier," he says. "I listened to a lot of Motown, a lot Weezer, a lot of AM radio to get that sort of early '60s pop hits kind

Part of the local music scene for 20 years. Bosley says too many nights on the road helped shape the last album's

"It's cathartic and therapeutic to write the darkest thing you possibly can. I challenged myself to write really dark material. I think I succeeded, but oh my God, it was depressing The new album's first surprise may be

its cover. While it looks like a random shot of a downtown, it's actually a scale model Bosley built himself. "Maybe I shouldn't give away the

secret, 'cause at first glance it's actually fooled a few people."

iohn law@sunmedia.ca

NIAGARA FOOD FESTIVAL

Top chefs to face off in Welland Postmedia Network the beginning of the competition.

Welland's tastiest event next month will serve as a launch pad for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto Niagara Food Festival has been

selected to participate in The Road to The Royal Chef Competition, pitting top local chefs against each other. Award-winning celebrity

chef and author Ted Reader the self-titled "Godfather of the Grill" - will serve as master of ceremonies for each competition

The Welland event will take place Sept. 12. Other selected challenge loca-

tions are the Barrie Fair on Aug. 29, the Paris Fair on Sept. 6 and the Markham

At each regional competition, chefs will compete in two 30-minute rounds to create both an entree and dessert using "secret ingredients" provided to them at

The "black box" will contain a selection of products and ingredients from local farmers.

The winners of each regional competition will vie for the title of Royal Chef Challenge Champion dur-

ing a final round at The Royal, at Exhibition Place Nov. 14. "Regional fairs and festivals give smaller communities the opportunity to come together to celebrate everything that makes them unique," Paul

Larmer, president of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, said in TED READER a news release. "The Royal recognizes the importance of local fairs and festivals and continues to support them through events like The Road

to The Royal Challenge." The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is

the world's largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian show. The 93rd event runs Nov 6 to 15. For more information, visit www.rovalfair.org.



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■ ENTERTAINMENT: Falls comic opening venue in St. Catharines

New club to offer lots of laughs

It has been decades since a comedy club opened in St. Catharines, but the laughs will resume this fall.

Niagara Falls comic Marc Sinodinos is busy transforming a former pawn shop on St. Paul St. Into Showtime Comedy & Entertainment. The 3.000-square-foot venue will have capacity for 140 people when it opens Oct. 2, and will offer a mix of touring and local comedians.

Our goal is to offer a product and a price point where people (feel) it's worth their while to come down here, says Sinodinos, who is partnering with Matt Sherman of St. Catharines for the

The club is located at St. Paul and Queen Sts., next to The Detour concert

Sinodinos says he looked at another "cheaper" option, but chose downtown St. Catharines to be part of the area's entertainment scene. More importantly, he wanted to cater to locals. Which is why he won't go head to head with comedy chain Yuk Yuk's in Niagara Falls. "I've always thought independent

aces are the way to go," he says. "Just being able to do things your own way. Among other things, it allows him to offer an entertainment mix - live bands, hypnotists - on nights stan-

dup comics aren't booked. We want to be offer artists and entertainers an affordable facility to rent and host and produce their own

shows," he says. "Me and Marc are big on the research and development of local tal-

ent," adds Sherman. *Right now, if you are an amateur comic, where do you go? You can't go to Yuk Yuk's. You can't go to the casino. But we're going to have ama-

teur night." Sinodinos is a veteran Niagara comic who launched the SinoEvil Comedy Tour at the former House of Comedy in Niagara Falls. He aims to bring the same spirit to Showtime, giving up-

and-coming comics a local venue. "If you want an opportunity to get up and perform and test out, 'Am I good at this?' you'll have an opportu-

Extensive renovations began inside the club in May, Sinodinos and Sherman won't reveal the cost, but agree "life savings" enters the picture.



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September 13th • 10-2 pm - Wellness Centre at 145 Lincoln St. Welland September 20th • 12-2 pm - Port Colborne arena (Vale Center) 550 Elizabeth St., Port Colborne

Informal registration available at the Welland Youth Arena, Pelham & Port Colborne Arena during skating hours. See the schedule on the website for times

LOCALNEWS

■ TELEVISION: Stacey Simon show comes to Gusto

New cuisine series makes rendezvous to Niagara

JOHN LAW Postmedia Network

Without even setting foot in a casino, Stacey Simon took a huge gamble coming to Nia-

gara.

It would mark the first episode of an entirely self-produced, self-financed TV series
which debuts Saturday on the
new food and lifestyle chan-

nel Gusto TV.

Stacey Simon Rendezvous
will visit scenic getaways
throughout Ontario, looking
at local culture, cuisine and
markets. The first episode has
city gal' Simon checking into
the Prince of Wales Hotel in
Nlagara-on-the-Lake. Over
the next 30 minutes she spotlights Nlagara wineries and
local food wendors.

Throughout the eight-episode first season, Simon will also visit Beamsville, Vineland and Lincoln. "I had absolutely no help, I

did it all on my own," she says.
"It was a big venture for me, and a risky one, definitely.
"Knock on wood, it paid off.
It's gamble, you don't know how it will be taken or whatnot, but I really believed in

the project. I knew my stuff, I knew what I wanted." Niagara was an easy pick for Simon, since it's where so many Toronto residents go to

get away from it all.

"There's so much going on
in the Niagara region," she
says. "I always find something
new whenever I'm there."

The former actress is funding the show through her own production company, LiLoLa Films, and says she wanted a "traditional" feel for each



Toronto's Stacey Simon hosts the new Gusto TV series Stacey Simon Rendezvous. Several episodes of the first season spotlight Niagara, including the debut next Saturday.

a 30-minute episode, recalling less frantic, more old fashioned food series.

"It's back to real traditional cooking," she says. "The food is the star in most of the pro-

grams, versus the other way around. You know, using food as a prop or competition. We're going back to real cooking and lifestyles."
"Generally, I'm cooking. I

am in the kitchen." The first two episodes debut Aug. 15 at 6 p.m.

The Ottawa-born Stacey says Niagara has always been one of her "favourite go-to places," and found it a challenge what to leave out, since

she filmed so much.

"We got a lot of great subjects," she says. "I had a hard time narrowing some of them down, because I wanted to fit so many in.

"Everybody that I filmed I actually used. I fust didn't have the heart to take them out. I still didn't get around to doing some of the other ones ... but I can only do so much in half an hour."

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FESTIVAL: Four-day event brought large crowds to lakeside city

Thousands of people visited Port Colborne during the long weekend, to take advantage of attractions like the midway ride.

Canal Days called 'a blast' for thousands

ALLAN BENNER Postmedia Network

It takes a "strong sense of ownership" for a city of 18,000 people to pull off an event like Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. Port Colborne's population likely more than tripled over the four days, as thousands of people arrived for the annual bash, taking part in a myriad of activities that encompassed much of the commu-

It wouldn't be possible without the commitment of Port Colborne residents, businesses, volunteers and city staff, said Port Colhorne's event co-ordinator Allaina

"Something of this size, you cannot put on without a lot of help," she said. "There are more than 2,000 volunteer hours put in, partnerships and relationships that we have with contractors and service providers, and even some of the

vendors that have been coming for 20 years. It's their signature show," she said. "It's being able to have that type of relationship and being able to work with people that are passionate and committed to what they do that really makes Canal Days

shine. Added Kane: "It was a blast" She said the number of people who spent the civic holiday weekend in the city was expected at 300,000 during the four

Final numbers weren't available, but she said it appears the festival was "absolutely wonderfully attended." These are numbers that we're accus-

tomed to seeing," she said. The last economic impact study, published in 2011, determined visitors spent about \$2.1 million in the city that year. while local residents spent \$4.9 million. The full 2011 report is available on the

Kane said a new impact study will help the city gauge changes that have occurred during the past four years, as well as the impact the reduced value of the Canadian dollar may have had on visitors from the U.S.

city's website: portcolborne.ca.

"It's nice to be able to get some metrics to be able to use, not only to prove to sponsors that there's value in the dollars they're spending with us," she said. "We did see a lot of cross-border visitors this weekend, which is nice to see.

Lots of people from Buffalo." Kane said the city also directed some of its marketing in the Buffalo area. "It was nice to see that kind of return on investment," she added. The economic impact study, she said,

is also "a nice opportunity to be able to show the community exactly what Canal Days is doing for the retailers as well as the viability of the city.

Meanwhile, she said, festival events continue to grow. "We've had a couple new additions."

she said. *People have stepped up and taken over some areas to make them a little more program-heavy The inaugural Main Street Stakes at

Lock 8 Downs, a sawhorse race held in the parking lot of Lock 8 Park on Saturday, was one of those events. "It went over fabulously. We're so look-

ing forward to that being an event again next year." The influx of visitors, however, made

getting around a challenge. "It's a little bit of a challenge, but we also consider it the price of success, Kane said When the "dynamic and incredible"

RedBoss fireworks display lit up the sky near West St. on the Sunday night, Kane said, the canal bank and bridge "were just loaded with people But at some point, those people

needed to leave "and therein lies some of the challenges." "We just asked for a little bit of natience

Despite a few thunderstorms, including one that led to an Environment Canada tornado warning. Kane said the festival was relatively unscathed. "The weather has been amazing," she

said. "Mother Nature has definitely held out for us." There was some poor weather in

other parts of Niagara, but other than a few raindrops here and there — which was nothing consistent and not for any long period of time — Canal Days in Port Colborne managed to come through with flying colours." When that severe thunderstorm

passed by, the sun came back out. "We never actually lost the sunshine, Kane said, "It was gorgeous, We were ready to batten down the hatches, and it was nothing."

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Wainfleet to host firefighters event again next year

Postmedia Network

Wainfleet may have been the safest place in Ontario recently. "It seemed to be the safest place, definitely, if you had any

fire Chief Harry Flagg. The township was host to hundreds of firefighters from 55 departments from across the province during the Firefighters

convention. Flagg said firefighters travelled from as far as Sturgeon Falls to be

"We had an excellent week

time during the events of the firefighters games," he said. Despite a few severe thunderstorms,

he said, the weather was for the most part exceptional too. Flagg said the event promoted enhanc-

ing the skills of the emergency workers, practicing those skills in numerous aspects of their profession. He said it's the first time in 20 years the

convention has been held south of Hwy. 401, "and it was a great success." The township's sports fields behind the Wainfleet arena were transformed into a

date the firefighters He said local firefighter "did an excellent job" organizing the event, with the support of the township council.

Flagg said the convention will take place in Wainfleet again next year. "If everything goes well and everything gets put back to normal at the soc cer field, and we don't have any hiccups, we'll be having it in the exact same location next year.

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Marnie Taylor leads a team from the Wainfleet Volunteer Firefighters' Ladies Auxiliary, in a game of waterball, defeating a team from Haldimand during the Firefighters Association of Ontario convention.

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